



RHODE ISLAND OPEN SPACE GRANTS PROGRAM

RECREATION ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS APPLICATION PROCESS

The Recreation Resources Review Committee will be evaluating each application received for funding under the 2000 and 2004 Open Space and Recreation Development Bond Authorizations and the Department of Interior, Land & Water Conservation Fund. The primary goal of the committee is to assist in acquiring, developing and maintaining accessibility to all citizens of quality outdoor recreation facilities.

Funding for 2005 Grant Round:

- Grants will be awarded (**LARGE GRANTS**) for recreation acquisition and development projects. Grants will be for 50% of the project cost. The maximum grant award will be \$300,000.
- Grants will be awarded (**SMALL GRANTS**) for recreation acquisition and development projects. Grants will be for 50% of the project cost. The maximum grant award will be \$40,000.
- Grants will be awarded for “**DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES**”, as defined in Section 45-13-12 of the General Laws of Rhode Island. The following cities and towns are eligible for the 2005 Distressed Communities Grant Round; Central Falls, North Providence, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket. Grants awarded for “Distressed Communities” will be for 75% of the project cost for development and 100% of the cost for parkland acquisitions. The maximum grant award will be \$ 55,000.
- Grants will be awarded for **PASSIVE & HISTORIC PARK**, renovation and/or development projects. Grants will be awarded for up to 90% of the project cost. The maximum grant award will be \$150,000.

Who is eligible to apply?

- # The applicant must be a municipality of the State of Rhode Island.
- # A single application may include acquisition and/or development activities at one site within the applicant's jurisdiction. Applicants may request a waiver from the Recreation Resources Review Committee for multi-site applications. Waiver request must identify how the multi-site projects are interrelated.

What property is eligible?

- # The project sponsor must have title or adequate control and tenure of the project area in order to provide reasonable assurances that a conversion of the property will not occur. Copies of the property deeds, leases, restrictions or other appropriate documents must be on file with the State.

What conditions will the property be subject to?

- # The property must be kept available solely for public outdoor recreation on a permanent basis. Once the funds have been granted, the structures, land and facilities may never be used for non-outdoor recreational purposes.

Project sponsors are expected to:

- # Take all reasonable steps to insure the burial, screening or relocation of existing overhead lines at development projects
- # Insure that all-new electric wires, under 15 KV, and telephone wires are placed under ground. In no case shall mass recreation use areas (swimming, picnicking, ball fields, etc.) be located under electric wires.
 - Project sponsors are encouraged to have all development projects comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and utilize the universal design standards.
- # Suitable permanent public acknowledgment of financial assistance by the State Open Bond Funds at the project site is required by the State. Use of a symbol/sign is optional and we encourage its use as part of the park signage, folders and literature.

How to Apply:

- # ***Application forms will be available on November 15, 2005 from the:***

***Recreation Resources Review Committee
Department of Environmental Management
Division of Planning and Development
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908***

or may be downloaded from the DEM Web Site:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/plandev/grants.htm>

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For information contact:

Joseph G. Dias, Deputy Chief
DEM Division of Planning & Development
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908
401-222-2776 ext. 4301
Email: joe.dias@dem.ri.gov

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Complete the application form and submit an original and five copies by **January 20, 2006**, to the Recreation Resources Review Committee at the address shown above. ***Applications received after the filing deadline will not be considered for funding during this round and will be returned to the applicant.*** Such applications may be resubmitted during a subsequent round.

Your careful attention to supplying the materials requested and to answering each question on the Application Form greatly assists the Committee. Please answer, as completely as possible, all the questions on the Application Form. If more space is needed, attach additional pages and identify each response by the number preceding the question on the application form. **Please remember to sign the form. The form must be signed by the authorized local government official.** If you have any questions, please call DEM at 222-2776 extension 4301.

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Include a description of the proposed use of the property, and specify how the grant funds are to be used to meet the objectives of the ***“Local Comprehensive Land Use Plan” and/or the “Local Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plan”***.

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The applicant must provide evidence of its governing board’s consent to make application and provide evidence of public participation for the project being submitted. Show the commitment of the governing body to abide by the representations made in the application.

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Include a dated project boundary map, which clearly delineates the area under the conversion provisions of the rules and regulations. A more accurate map than the current one on file may be submitted upon closing of the grant. If the city/town has GIS parcel maps, please submit the appropriate map in “shape file” format.

How the Decision is made:

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The Committee realizes that it will not be able to assist all of the applicants to increase recreation facilities in the state. Therefore, it utilizes an Open Project Selection Process developed as part of the 2003 SCORP. Each application will be evaluated and scored on based on the criteria of the OPSP.

After each of the applications are ranked according to score, the Committee recommends a priority list to the Director of the Department of Environmental Management for funding. The Director may award grants in the order of priority recommended by the Committee. Notwithstanding the above, the Director, with the advice of the rating committee, has the authority to adjust such grant awards, so that no one community receives a disproportionate amount of the funds available and so that a reasonable geographic distribution of funds is achieved.

All development projects are subject to clearinghouse review after selection. Comments received in the clearinghouse review must to be addressed prior to grant approval. Submit certification that all other necessary funds are available prior to the release of grant funds. Applicants may use the value of interests of land acquired by donation as a local match provided that the value shown as a donation is sustained by a certified appraisal and the donation is part of the project application.

PROPOSED FUNDING ROUNDS FOR 2005-2006

RECREATION ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

1. Large Grants Program:

- Limit \$300,000.00 per State Grant
- 50% of project costs

2. Small Grants Program:

- Limit \$40,000 per grant application
- 50% of project costs

3. Distressed Communities Grant Program:

- Limit \$55,000 per grant application
- 75% of project costs, for development projects
- 100% of acquisition cost for parkland purchases

4. Passive and Historic Parks Grant Program:

- Limit \$150,000 per grant application
- Awards up to 90% of project costs

PROPOSED APPLICATION AND AWARD SCHEDULE

November 2005 – January 2006

February – March 2006

April 2006

Application Period

RRRC reviews and scores application

DEM Director Announces Grant Awards